



**2016 AQuESTT Conference – April 18-19, 2016**

**“Every Student Everyday – Continuing to Improve with Data Conference”**

Contact: Debe Dockhorn (402-471-2748 or [debe.dockhorn@nebraska.gov](mailto:debe.dockhorn@nebraska.gov))

**[NEW! AQuESTT Conference At-A-Glance](#)**

**[Guidebook Mobile Flyer](#)**

**[Keynote Speakers Flyer](#)**

**Purpose:**

The purpose of the conference is to support school and district improvement efforts focused on the tenets of AQuESTT (i.e., College and Career Ready; Educator Effectiveness; Assessment; Positive Partnerships, Relationships & Student Success; Transitions; and Educational Opportunities and Access). The conference is also designed to broaden educator understanding of the roles of research and evaluation, emerging and best practices, and professional learning in achieving student success. In addition to sessions that focus on these topics, there will also be opportunities to learn about the latest efforts in data use, tools, and training around systems of support for Nebraska schools. Finally, we are pleased to announce the National Privacy Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) will be joining us in Nebraska to provide a series of timely and appropriate sessions on student data privacy and security best practices.

**Who should attend?**

School districts and Educational Service Units are encouraged to send teams to the conference to maximize opportunities for professional learning that will benefit their students and schools. Suggestions for team members include school and district administrators, curriculum directors, special education directors, assessment coordinators, school improvement team members, data stewards, teacher leaders, and others involved in supporting systems of education for every student, every day.



**School Improvement Grant Waiver Notice**

Contact: Diane Stuehmer ([diane.stuehmer@nebraska.gov](mailto:diane.stuehmer@nebraska.gov) or 402-471-1740) or Randy McIntyre ([randy.mcintyre@nebraska.gov](mailto:randy.mcintyre@nebraska.gov) or 402-471-1749)

Nebraska will be requesting five waivers related to Fiscal Year 2015 School Improvement Grant (SIG) application. The complete notice is available at [https://www.education.ne.gov/federalprograms/Title\\_1\\_Part\\_A\\_SIG.html](https://www.education.ne.gov/federalprograms/Title_1_Part_A_SIG.html) beneath the header “Waiver Request Notices.”

**Comments regarding the intended waiver requests are encouraged (but not required) and should be submitted via email to [diane.stuehmer@nebraska.gov](mailto:diane.stuehmer@nebraska.gov) by 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 20, 2016.**

**Waiver 1: Period of Availability of FY 2015 Funds**

In order to extend the period of availability beyond September 30, 2016, waive section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C § 1225(b)) to extend the period of availability of FY 2015 SIG funds for the SEA and all of its LEAs to September 30, 2021. This waiver is for the purpose of making five-year awards to eligible LEAs.

**Waiver 2: Tier II Waiver**

In order to enable the State to generate new lists of Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III schools for its FY 2015 competition, waive paragraph (a)(2) of the definition of “persistently lowest-achieving schools” in Section I.A.3 of the SIG final requirements and incorporation of that definition in identifying Tier II schools under Section I.A.1(b) of those requirements to permit the State to include, in the pool of secondary schools from which it determines those that are the persistently lowest-achieving schools in the State, secondary schools participating under Title I, Part A of the ESEA that have not made adequate yearly progress (AYP) for at least two consecutive years or are in the State’s lowest quintile of performance based on proficiency rates on the State’s assessments in reading/language arts and mathematics combined.

### **Waiver 3: n-Size Waiver**

In order to enable the State to generate new lists of Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III schools for its FY 2015 competition, waive the definition of “persistently lowest-achieving schools” in Section I.A.3 of the SIG final requirements and the use of that definition in Section I.A.1(a) and (b) of those requirements to permit the State to exclude, from the pool of schools from which it identifies the persistently lowest-achieving schools for Tier I and Tier II, any school in which the total number of students in the “all students” group in the grades assessed is less 30.

### **Waiver 4: School Improvement Timeline Waiver**

Waive section 1116(b)(12) of the ESEA to permit LEAs to allow their Tier I or Tier II Title I participating schools that will fully implement a SIG model beginning in the 2016-17 school year to “start over” in the school improvement timeline.

### **Waiver 5: Schoolwide Program Waiver**

Waive the 40 percent poverty eligibility threshold in section 1114(a)(1) of the ESEA to permit LEAs to implement a schoolwide program in a Tier I or Tier II Title I participating school that does not meet the poverty threshold and is fully implementing one of the seven school intervention models.



### **ADVISER Dashboard Updated Vendor Certification Information Now Available**

Contact: Dean Folkers (402-471-4740 or [dean.folkers@nebraska.gov](mailto:dean.folkers@nebraska.gov))

The Nebraska Department of Education team has been working one-on-one with Student Information System (SIS) vendors to prepare for certification of their respective student information systems (SIS). Beginning July 1, 2014, all Nebraska SIS vendors were initially engaged to get started with creating the connection's to the Nebraska Education Data Standards (NEDS) built from Ed-Fi.

The current status of implementation for all Student Information Systems (SIS) operating in Nebraska is available here: [Vendor Status](#).

The target date for SIS vendors to be certified in Nebraska is **July 1, 2017**.

Additional information can be found at the following web address:

[https://www.education.ne.gov/DataServices/SLDS\\_Grant/SISVendorCertification.html](https://www.education.ne.gov/DataServices/SLDS_Grant/SISVendorCertification.html)



### **ADVISER Early Adopter Program II (EAP II) Kick off Meeting (Preconference Session)**

Contact: Russ Masco ([russ.masco@nebraska.gov](mailto:russ.masco@nebraska.gov))

This is a reminder to all School Districts that will be participating at the ADVISER EAPII Kickoff meeting that invitations were sent to the contacts submitted on their applications, in this case, the School District

Superintendents, on March 16. If you have not received the invitation please check with NDE or email Russ Masco @ [russ.masco@nebraska.gov](mailto:russ.masco@nebraska.gov). The preconference session will be at the AQuESTT Conference on April 18 starting at 9.00 am till 11.00 am.



REMINDER!

**Student Summary Attendance (Collection Period 3: 2016-01-01 to 2016-03-15)**

**AUDIT WINDOW DUE DATE: April 15**

Contact: NDE Helpdesk (888-285-0556 or [nde.helpdesk@nebraska.gov](mailto:nde.helpdesk@nebraska.gov))

*Public districts and Special Purpose systems only*

Student Summary Attendance collection period 3 (2016-01-01 to 2016-03-15) is due April 1.  
Audit Window Close date April 15.

Data used for Excessive Absenteeism Quarterly Count and Extract for State Aid Calculation.



REMINDER!

**First Year Teacher Survey – DUE DATE: April 25**

Contact: [nde.research@nebraska.gov](mailto:nde.research@nebraska.gov)

Selected principals that have first year teachers who completed their teacher preparation program at a Nebraska institution should have received the First Year Teacher Survey from [nde.research@nebraska.gov](mailto:nde.research@nebraska.gov) on or about March 14. Principals who have not yet responded to this brief survey are asked to please do so as soon as possible, as the survey will close on or about **April 25**. The intent of the First Year Teacher Survey is to obtain critical and consistent program effectiveness information from P-12 school partners that can be used by Nebraska teacher preparation institutions for continuous improvement.



REMINDER!

**Special Education Post-School Outcomes – DUE DATE: April 30**

Contact: Rita Hammitt (402-595-2092 or [rita.hammitt@nebraska.gov](mailto:rita.hammitt@nebraska.gov))

*Public Districts Only*

The report for submitting contact information for students with a disability who exited special education in 2014-2015 school year is located on the NDE Portal under the Data Collection tab. Accurate student contact information will assure your students will be contacted and included in this required Post School Outcome collection. Please be sure to scroll down on the report to enter each student's contact information as indicated. This collection is considered for each school district's annual federally required "determination".



REMINDER!

**Nonpublic Consultation for 2015-16 – DUE DATE: May 2**

Contact: Diane Stuehmer (402-471-1740 or [diane.stuehmer@nebraska.gov](mailto:diane.stuehmer@nebraska.gov))

**OR** Beth Wooster (402-471-2452 or [beth.wooster@nebraska.gov](mailto:beth.wooster@nebraska.gov))

*Public Districts Only*

It's time to be planning for the next school year by completing consultations with nonpublic schools regarding equitable services for the 2016-17 school year. These two collections are found in the NDE Consolidated Data Collection (CDC) under the Data Collections tab for the following programs:

- Title I-A: Services for At-Risk Students

- Title I-C: Migrant
- Title II-A: Teacher and Principal Training
- Title III: Limited English Proficient
- Title IV-B: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers
- Math and Science Partnerships

### **Federal Programs Within Boundaries Nonpublic Consultation**

Every public school district in Nebraska having one or more nonpublic systems located within the public school district's geographic boundaries must complete this form. It is the responsibility of the public school district to submit this completed form to the Nebraska Department of Education. A form will need to be completed for each nonpublic system geographically located within the public school district attendance area to document that the nonpublic system was consulted regarding potential participation in a federal program.

### **Title I Nonpublic Consultation**

Every District receiving Title I funds and having resident low-income school aged students attending a nonpublic school will need to complete this collection. The public district is not required to complete or submit a Title I Nonpublic Consultation form for Rule 12 or 13 exempt status schools. A form will need to be completed for each Nonpublic system that has reported having students eligible for free or reduced lunch as reported in the Nonpublic Membership Report.

Each of these collections will provide forms for the public district to print out and use when consulting with nonpublic schools regarding participation in the programs. Prepopulated forms are available for download by the public district to use when consulting with the nonpublic school(s). Upon completion of the consultation, the public district will enter the information from the forms into the appropriate collection in the NDE Consolidated Data Collection. Completed, signed forms will remain on file at the public district and may be requested by NDE at any time and/or reviewed during NCLB monitoring.

**NOTE:** In the CDC, the category for both of these forms has been changed from "Title I" and "General," to "FEDERAL." Anyone that previously had "Title I" access, will be rolled over to "FEDERAL" access. Superintendents now have access to this activation code and may assign it to appropriate staff. As with other reports in the CDC, the person entering the data may "Submit" the data, but the Authorized Representative (usually the Superintendent) will need to "Approve" the collection.

**EMAILS WERE SENT TO SUPERINTENDENTS OF PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS THAT ARE REQUIRED TO CONSULT WITH NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS. A SEPARATE EMAIL WAS SENT FOR EACH COLLECTION.**

**Audit Window Close Date: May 16**



### **IDEA MOE for Compliance Standard – DUE DATE: May 2**

Contact: Pete Biaggio (402-471-4308 or [pete.biaggio@nebraska.gov](mailto:pete.biaggio@nebraska.gov))

IDEA Part B Special Education Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Application for Compliance Standard for school year 2014-2015 opened on March 15, 2016. The report may be accessed within the NDE Portal under the Data Collection tab.

School district receipt of IDEA dollars is contingent upon maintaining fiscal effort for Special Education. Districts must expend a greater or equal amount of local or local/state funds from one year to the next to meet the MOE requirement. Final calculations based on actual special education school district expenditures/receipts/data obtained from the 2014-2015 AFR and NSSRS are available and have been compared to the highest levels of fiscal effort. As a result, calculations for meeting the IDEA MOE Compliance Standard may have resulted in a

MOE excess or shortage that requires school district review for determination of adjustments or credits that could modify the MOE level.



### **2016-2017 Perkins reVISION Initial Competitive Grant – DUE DATE: May 6**

Contact: NDE Helpdesk (888-285-0556 or [nde.helpdesk@nebraska.gov](mailto:nde.helpdesk@nebraska.gov))

The 2016-2017 Perkins reVISION Initial Competitive Grant application is now available in the GMS to assist local school districts in completing the reVISION Career Education strategic planning process and to school districts who have not received this grant in the past. For information regarding this grant, please see <https://www.education.ne.gov/nce/revision.html>



### **NeSA-RMSW 2015-2016 Key Dates**

Contact: Valorie Foy (402-471-2495 or [valorie.foy@nebraska.gov](mailto:valorie.foy@nebraska.gov))

Key dates for NeSA-RMSW are presented in the following table.

eDIRECT Test Setup for NeSA-RMS available to Districts. Check student information in Test Setup => Students for any needed corrections – accommodations, demographics, or testing codes.	February 22 – May 6
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Additional information on NeSA testing is available at the Statewide Assessment Website:

<http://www.education.ne.gov/Assessment/Index.html>

## **HOW TO CONTACT THE NDE HELPDESK**

There are three ways to contact the NDE Helpdesk with questions.

**All three ways get to the same place, so please only use one of the following options.**

**If you send more than one request this may delay our response as we coordinate all requests.**

1. Submit a “Helpdesk Request” from your portal account. After logging into the NDE Portal, it is available in the upper right corner of the Collection Announcement page. This will be the fastest way to get your request to the NDE Helpdesk.

**OR**

2. Email: [nde.helpdesk@nebraska.gov](mailto:nde.helpdesk@nebraska.gov)

**OR**

3. Call Toll Free: 888-285-0556 – **This is a Voicemail line ONLY.**

**Please leave your full name, organization, call back number and a brief description of your question.**

ALSO: If you have contacted the NDE Program Staff person, please do not also contact the Helpdesk. Multiple contacts will delay the response.

**THANK YOU!**

## **NDE Bulletins: Past and Present:**

Current and past NDE Bulletins can be found at <http://www.education.ne.gov/ndebulletins/index.html>. We will also continue to send the bulletin out via e-mail.

***Denise Schuyler***

*Data, Research, and Evaluation - NDE IT Helpdesk Specialist*



*Helpdesk: 888-285-0556 – [nde.helpdesk@nebraska.gov](mailto:nde.helpdesk@nebraska.gov)*

*Email: [denise.schuyler@nebraska.gov](mailto:denise.schuyler@nebraska.gov)*